

CLAIMS

1. A vehicle comprising:
  - 5 a steering column including a steering shaft; a steering hand wheel operatively connected to the steering shaft; a by-wire braking system responsive to electronic control signals; a driver-operable control input device supported by the steering column and including a member manipulable by a driver; and a transducer operatively connected to the member to convert the effects of driver manipulation of the member to electronic control signals and transmit the electronic control signals to the by-wire braking system.
  2. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the member is a braking ring adjacent to the steering hand wheel.
  3. The vehicle of claim 2, wherein the steering hand wheel and the braking ring are characterized by a common axis of rotation.
  4. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the member is a button on the steering hand wheel.
  5. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the member is a pressure-sensitive pad on the steering wheel.
  6. The vehicle of claim 5, wherein the steering hand wheel is characterized by a rim, and wherein the pressure-sensitive pad is on the rim.
  7. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the member is a stalk mounted on the steering column.

8. A vehicle having a passenger compartment and an engine compartment, the vehicle comprising:

5 a steering column including a rotatable steering shaft extending from the passenger compartment to the engine compartment;

a steering hand wheel operatively connected to the steering shaft for unitary rotation therewith;

10 a by-wire braking system responsive to electronic control signals;

a driver-operable control input device supported by the steering column and including a braking ring manipulable by a driver and connected to the steering wheel for unitary rotation therewith; and

15 a transducer operatively connected to the braking ring to convert the effects of driver manipulation of the braking ring to electronic control signals and transmit the electronic control signals to the by-wire braking system.

9. A brake-by-wire input arrangement comprising:

5 a steering column including a steering shaft; a steering hand wheel operatively connected to the steering shaft; a brake-by-wire input device including a member on the steering column or the steering hand wheel and manipulable by a driver; and a transducer operatively connected to the member to convert driver manipulation of the member to electronic braking control signals.

10. The brake-by-wire input arrangement of claim 9, wherein the member is a braking ring adjacent to the steering hand wheel.

11. The brake-by-wire input arrangement of claim 10, wherein the steering hand wheel and the braking ring are characterized by a common axis of rotation.

12. The brake-by-wire input arrangement of claim 9, wherein the member is a button on the steering hand wheel.

13. The brake-by-wire input arrangement of claim 9, wherein the member is a pressure-sensitive pad on the steering wheel.

14. The brake-by-wire input arrangement of claim 13, wherein the steering hand wheel is characterized by a rim, and wherein the pressure-sensitive pad is on the rim.

15. The brake-by-wire input arrangement of claim 9, wherein the member is a stalk mounted on the steering column.